

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 LIMA 06491 161602Z

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ACTION SCSE-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARA-10 PRS-01 /012 W

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O 161530Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1008

UNCLAS LIMA 6491

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: CASC (SLAYMAKER JOHN AND ROURKE, MICHAEL JOSEPH)

SUBJ: W/W JOHN SLAYMAKER AND MICHAEL JOSEPH ROURKE

REF: LIMA 6479

PLEASE INFORM NEXT OF KIN OF SLAYMAKER AND ROURKE THAT THEY ARE MISSING IN MOUNTAINS, HAVING DISAPPEARED DURING A MOUNTAIN CLIMBING EXPEDITION. EMBASSY, AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES HAVE NO INFORMATION ON WHETHER OR NOT THEY DIED IN THE ACCIDENT OR ARE STILL ALIVE. AS WAS STRESSED YESTERDAY, THEY ARE EXPERIENCED CLIMBERS. FOUR RESCUE GROUPS, ONCE AGAIN, ON WAY TO SCENE OF ACCIDENT WHICH IS IN VERY ROUGH COUNTRY. SNOW BROKE UNDER ONE CLIMBER AND HE SLID PAST SECOND, PULLING BOTH OVER AN EDGE WITH A 120 TO 150 METER DROP. THERE WAS SNOW AND ROCK AT THE BOTTOM OF THE INCLINE. CLIMBING PARTNERS, ON OTHER TWO MAN TEAM, COULD NOT LOCATE SLAYMAKER AND ROURKE DUE TO FALLING SNOW.

RESCUE TEAMS PLAN TO DROP ONE MAN OVER EDGE TO EXPLORE AREA WHERE SLAYMAKER AND ROURKE FELL. UNTIL THAT TIME, NO MORE INFORMATION AVAILABLE. TEAMS HOPE TO REACH SCENE AT 1100 HOURS LOCAL TIME TODAY. IF EFFORT TO FIND SLAYMAKER AND ROURKE VIA ONE-MAN DROP DOES NOT LOCATE THEM, TEAM WILL HAVE TO APPROACH AREA FROM OTHER SIDE OF MOUNTAIN--TWO TO THREE DAY MARCH. AT SAME TIME, IF SLAYMAKER AND ROURKE WERE NOT BADLY INJURED BY FALL, THEY COULD NOT REACH CLIMBING FACE UP PRECIPICE AND WOULD HAVE TO WALK OUT--AGAIN BY SAME TWO TO THREE DAY MARCH. ALTITUDE EVIDENTLY PREVENTS USE OF HELICOPTERS. RESCUERS YESTERDAY, JULY 15, ATTEMPTED TO USE LIGHT PLANE FOR SPOTTING BUT PLANE HIT AIR POCKET AND ALMOST CRASHED.

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EMBASSY WILL PASS INFORMATION AS IT DEVELOPES. LOCAL AUTHORITIES

ARE MAKING STRENUOUS EFFORT.

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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